

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 AID-20 PC-15 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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P 262252 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4147

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EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CI PINT PINS

SUBJ: CONTINUED STREET VIOLENCE

REF: SANTIAGO 1770

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. STREET INCIDENTS, MANY REVOLVING AROUND GOVT' S EDUCATION POLICIES, HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH TODAY. GOVT CONTINUES TO HARP ON EXISTENCE OF ALLEGED RIGHT- WING SUBVERSIVE PLAN. END SUMMARY.

2. DOZEN OR SO STREET INCIDENTS IN SANTIAGO HAVE OCCURRED IN LAST TWO DAYS. STUDENTS CONTINUE TO PROTEST VIGOROUSLY AGAINST GOVT EDUCATION POLICY, ESPECIALLY NATIONAL UNIFIED SCHOOL (ENU) PROPOSAL. OPPOSITION- CONTROLLED FACTION OF SECONDARY STUDENTS FEDERATION (FESES) HELD ONE DAY " STRIKES" IN EXTREME NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN AREAS OF CHILE, WITH CENTRAL AREA INCLUDING SANTIAGO SET FOR TODAY. DEMONSTRATORS ON STREET SINCE THIS MORNING WITH POLICE USE OF TEARGAS REPORTED IN VARIOUS AREAS. ENU ISSUE USED AS PRETEXT FOR SEIZURES OF TWO SANTIAGO HIGHSHCOOLS APR 25, ONE BY MIR- LED STUDENTS AND OTHER BY PDC, IN WHICH ONE STUDENT REPORTEDLY SERIOUSLY HURT BY EXPLODING TEARGAS GRENADE. ENU USED AS PRETEXT FOR STREET BLOCKADES AND GENERAL TRASHING
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IN PROVIDENCIA SECTION; EMBOFF SAW PATRIA Y LIBERTAD MEMBERS ACTIVELY INVOLVED. ENU ALSO TRIGGERED VARIOUS INCIDENTS IN PROVINCIAL STUDENT PROTESTS, ESPECIALLY IN BIO BIO, VALPARAISO AND MALLECO; IN LATTER, ONE STUDENT SHOT AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN CITY OF ANGOL. MINED TAPIA DENOUNCED STUDENT PROTESTS AS POLITICALLY INSPIRED AND CALLED ON STUDENTS TO RETURN TO CLASSES. PRO- GOVT FESES FACTION HAS RALLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS EVENING TO BACK GOVT PROPOSALS.

3. IN OTHER INCIDENTS, PROTESTING WOMEN ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTED BY PDC YOUTHS WERE REPELLED BY POLICE USING WATER CANNONS AND TEAR GAS WHEN THEY TRIED TO STORM OFFICES DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO OF PDC-INSPIRED CONCI CONSUMER COOP WHICH GOVT RECENTLY INTERVENED. SAME GROUP THEN STONED NEARBY OFFICES OF SOCIALIST PARTY-CONTROLLED

ULTIMA HORA NEWSPAPER, SLIGHTLY HURTING TWO EMPLOYEES; PS ISSUED ANGRY STATEMENT DIRECTLY BLAMING PDC. ULTIMA HORA RECENTLY PUBLISHED HIGHLY CRITICAL AND INSULTING EDITORIAL ON PDC (SANTIAGO 1764). ANTI- GOVT DEMONSTRATORS BLOCKED STREETS AND LIT BONFIRES FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN NUNOA AREA PROTESTING SHORTAGES

OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS; ACCORDING TO PRO- GOVT PRESS, THIS GROUP APR 24 ALSO ATTACKED HOME OF COMMUNIST DEPUTY- ELECT AND FORMER LABOR MINISTER MIREYA BALTRA. ONE OF MAIN ACCESS HIGHWAYS TO GREATER SANTIAGO AGAIN BLOCKED APR 24, THIS TIME BY STRIKING WORKERS OF PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY (REFTEL). IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS APR 25, RESIDENTS OF LOWER INCOME LA GRANJA COMMUNE OF SANTIAGO FORCIBLY SEIZED TWO GOVT TRUCKS, ONE CARRYING SUGAR AND OTHER COOKING OIL, AND DISTRIBUTED PRODUCTS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD. SMALL GROUPS OF LEFTIST " WORKERS" DEMONSTRATED MIDDAY APR 25 IN FRONT OF CONGRESS ON WAGE READJUSTMENT ISSUE. COURTS, MEANWHILE INDICTED SECOND OFFICIAL OF CORMU, A GOVT HOUSING AGENCY FOR INVOLVMENT IN MARCH 16 DEATHS OF TWO PDC YOUTHS IN LA REINA (SANTIAGO 1132).

4. REPEATING PREVIOUS THEME (REFTEL), UNDERSEC VERGARA CLAIMED MOST OF ABOVE INCIDENTS " ARE NEITHER SPORADIC NOR CASUAL" BUT PART OF EXTREME RIGHT' S SUBVERSIVE PLAN TO OVERTHROW ALLENDE. GOAL OF INSTIGATORS OF INCIDENTS, HE CLAIMED, IS TO CREATE " IMAGE OF CHAOS" WHICH WOULD CULMINATE IN ANOTHER OCTOBER- LIKE SHUTDOWN, ONLY THIS TIME " BETTER PLANNED AND EXECUTED." COMMUNISTS HELD RALLY AFTERNOON APR 25 TO HEAR DEPUTY JORGE INSUNZA DENOUNCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIGHTIST SUBVERSION WHICH COULD, HE SAID, LEAD TO " CIVIL WAR."

5. MINED TAPIA, ON NATIONAL RADIO NETWORK MIDDAY TODAY, DENOUNCED VIOLENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS THIS MORNING, STATING EVEN LA MONEDA AS WELL AS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAD BEEN

STONED WITH WINDOWS BROKEN. HE DEFENDED GOVT EDUCATIONAL PROPOSALS BUT CITED GOVT DECISION IN RESPONSE REQUEST OF CHURCH TO POSTPONE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENU PENDING FULL DEBATE. MOTIVATION FOR DISTURBANCES, HE CONCLUDED, IS THEREFORE NOT RELATED TO SUBSTANCE OF EDUCATION PROPOSALS BUT IS " EXCLUSIVELY POLITICAL;" PARENTS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THIS AND NOT ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO BE MANIPULATED IN THIS WAY.

6. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TAPIA, RADIO BALMACEDA CARRIED LIVE ACCOUNT FROM INSIDE OFFICE OF RECTOR BOENINGER OF STORMING OF DOWNTOWN " CASA CENTRAL" OF UNIV. OF CHILE BY EXTREME LEFTISTS. BOENINGER HIMSELF WENT ON AIR AS DOORS TO HIS OFFICE GAVE WAY, TO APPEAL FOR HELP AS UNABLE TO GET THROUGH BY PHONE TO CARABINEROS OR INTERIOR MINISTRY.

7. BESIEGED BY NEWSMEN WHEN ENTERING OFFICE OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE, INTERIOR MINISTER GARADO ESPINOZA SAID LATE AFTERNOON THAT CARABINEROS HANDLING SITUATION WELL AND NO CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO IMPOSING STATE OF EMERGENCY IN CAPITAL, ACCORDING RADIO REPORTS.

8. COMMENT: STREET VIOLENCE, COUPLED WITH SUCH INSTITUTIONAL CONFLICTS AS " THREE AREAS" BILL AND FAIVOVICH IMPEACHMENT (SEPTTEL), HAVE RAISED POLITICAL TENSIONS AND INCREASED ILL- HUMOR ON ALL SIDES. DAVIS

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